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EXAMINER

STARKS, WILBERT L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2121

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Examiner's Amendment

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A method for analyzing responses to requests for quotations (RFQ's) comprising;
analyzing responses to RFQ's to determine whether they conform to a rule based system;
classifying a quote based on a set of rules to determine whether the quote satisfies said rules of said company;
converting said quotes into a series of ordered blocks comprised of computer understandable character strings, which strings contain context of said quote;
locating and extracting words and word groups containing information believed to be relevant to said quote.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising;
comparing information extracted from said quote to guidelines provided by a company.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising rating each quote based on said guidelines.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein if said quote does not conform to said guidelines, no rating is given.

Art Unit: 2129

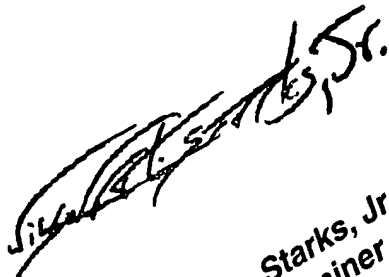
5. The method of claim 4 wherein said companies that are disqualified for not meeting said guidelines are listed for a user with a listing of reasons why said company is not qualified.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein each item in said quote is weighted.

7. The method of claim 2 further comprising;
dividing said guidelines into musts and wants.

8. A system for evaluating quotes comprising;
a digital computer system;
data derived from a printed quote;
said computer extracting words and word groups from said quote;
set of printed rules;
a rating for each quote based on said words and word ;
groups from said quote compared to said set of printed rules.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said quote comprises price, delivery date, quantity, origination, name of company, whether the company has done business prior, or specification of the goods.



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Art Unit - 2121